

2 March 2022

Dear parents / carers

Welcome back to Spring Term and an anticipated busy six weeks of school life before we break for the Easter Holiday.

This letter opens in a rather sombre mood. As I reflect on the tragedies unfolding in Ukraine, Afghanistan and other locations around the world, I am reminded that one of WeST's core values is compassion; that sense of recognising with empathy the need in another's situation and being motivated to do something to improve their situation. Sometimes when faced with suffering on such a large scale it can feel hard to know how to act compassionately, in a way that makes a tangible difference for those directly involved. However, we can all play our part by being aware of others in our communities who may be affected by these global events and offering support. This could simply be by listening empathically to a colleague or friend who has family caught up in conflict abroad.

I know that many of you will have questions regarding the trust's approach to COVID following recent government announcements. I firstly wish to reassure you that whilst many of the previous restrictions around COVID have now been relaxed, we will continue to maintain aspects of our system of controls to mitigate the spread of infection. These include:

- Ensuring good hygiene for everyone
- Maintaining appropriate cleaning regimes
- Keeping occupied spaces well ventilated, wherever possible
- Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19

We recognise that the legal requirement to self-isolate following a positive test has been removed, although, adults and children who test positive will be strongly advised to **stay at home and avoid contact with other people for at least 5 full days, and then continue to follow the guidance until they have received 2 negative test results on consecutive days**. Otherwise, staff and pupils should attend their education settings as usual, whilst being mindful (if applicable) of the government guidance to those who live with, or have stayed overnight in the household of, someone who has COVID-19, available [here](#).

Finally, I would like to give you advance notice that all WeST secondary Schools will be taking a joint INSET day on Monday 4th July 2022. Consequently, all WeST secondary schools will be closed to pupils on that day. WeST primary schools will be open as normal.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Rob Haring
CEO